Analyzing *The Flick* Outside the Box Office

Play by Annie Baker

Researched and Presented by Anisa Galvan

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Introduction

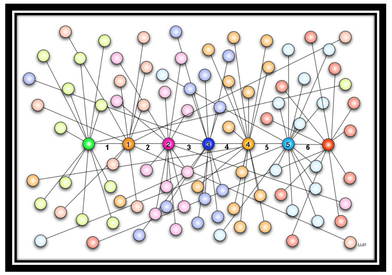
- As dramaturge the important and most challenging task for me was to ensure that the production was not being deviated from the original script. The goal was to figure out Annie Baker's message.
- My own interpretation when reading the script came to conclude that this play was possibly intended for how we connect to ourselves which results in how we interact with others.

Production Participation

- Communication was an importance between the director and I to ensure script wasn't being deviated.
- Created packets containing the research I already had in mind were created for the actors to help with analyzing their characters.
- Writing down notes during rehearsals and creating a script analysis to pinpoint decision on what particular themes to research, especially for a contemporary play that has less history than Shakespeare.

Research Ideas and Importance

- The central themes that stood out to me in *The Flick* were movies and their history as a social interaction, the six degrees of separation, and the philosophy of Buddhism. The reasons for these were to help interpret my idea on the theme of connections. I noticed this was similar to how the director interpreted this play which was very similar to mine.
- Because *The Flick* is set in a movie theater, movies are thought to have brought people together into an escape from reality and forgetting real life for a while. This is something that Avery, the main character, does constantly to avoid his personal conflicts. His coworkers do the same when watching movies while in the theatre and though they are different people, they become friends when a movie is playing. This is a moment of peace for them.
- The Six Degrees of Separation is a theory first noted by Frigyes Karinthy who discussed in his novel, *Chains* (1929), that we are all connected to each other no matter who meet in life and that the world is actually a small one. For example, if a friend of yours knew another individual who knew a celebrity then you are now automatically one degree or step close to meeting or knowing that celebrity regardless if you ever meet them. It's a theory that has been discussed since then with a couple experiments that contain mixed results.
- Buddhism was a personal choice for research because of the parallels I took notice in how the characters interact that deal with Buddhist thought. The main discussion often talked about is Buddhism finding inner happiness when letting go of sufferings. This is the reason why Avery, Sam, and Rose often are unhappy because they cannot let go of what is holding them back in life and they are suffering constantly throughout the play which causes conflict between all three at work. The way Buddhists view happiness has become a way of analyzing stories and characters when it comes to the whys and hows with their mind and action.



Role of a Dramaturge

A researcher and literary editor that assists the production with knowledge of the script, the writer's message and answers questions that have to do with the script or history.

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Further Information

The Binder containing my entry for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region 6 is near the poster for anymore interest and detail on the process and research.